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OBITUARY NOTICE.

Dr. HERMANN ROMBERG died in Berlin on July 6, 1898. From Professor BACKLUND's note in *Astronomische Nachrichten*, 3512, we condense the following brief account of his life and work.

Born in 1835 at Bromberg, he received his university training at Berlin, coming under ENCKE's guidance in astronomy. After a number of years' experience as assistant in several observatories, particularly at Berlin, where he took part in the observations for the Astronomische Gesellschaft Zone Catalogue, he was called to Pulkowa in 1873. He here found, in the use of the large Repsold meridian-circle, which was intrusted to him, his true field of labor, and for twenty-one years he worked with the utmost assiduity. The amount of work he accomplished—9,000 complete meridian observations a year, in some years—seems marvelous, especially when the climatic disadvantages of Pulkowa are considered, and the further fact that these were not zone observations, but included selected stars ranging in Declination from -25° to the North Pole.

His zeal and success in the work of reducing his observations were equally great, and the fruits of his labors will be found in three splendid star catalogues. The first of these, based on 32,000 observations made in 1874–1880, is his well-known catalogue of 5,634 stars. Two further volumes will contain the observations made in the years 1881–1894. One of these, including about 20,000 observations, is now in press; the other, containing 15,000 observations, is ready for the press. These volumes will form ROMBERG's most enduring monument.

The key-note of his personal character was a fearless rectitude that knew no compromise with any form of deception. Convinced of the truth and righteousness of a given course of action, he followed it unswervingly, despite occasional unpleasant consequences to himself. With this he combined great gentleness and friendliness of disposition, and a stanch loyalty to his friends that endeared him to many.